



County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

April 12, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

TRIAL COURT FACILITIES ACT OF 2002: QUARTERLY UPDATE

On November 12, 2002, your Board instructed my office to report on the implementation of SB 1732 (Escutia, Statutes of 2002) and to provide quarterly updates thereafter. SB 1732 is the legislation which requires the transfer of county courthouses to the State. This is the thirteenth quarterly report on the subject and covers January through March 2006 activities.

Legislative Activities

On February 21, 2006, SB 1375 (Lowenthal) was introduced. Sponsored by the County, this bill would require the State to become a party to any public-private partnership (PPP) agreement entered into by a county for the construction of new court facility to replace existing deficient court facilities, and would make such a project the highest priority. The purpose of the bill is to promote the leveraging of the State funds for courthouse construction and to allow projects, such as the replacement of Long Beach Courthouse, to move forward. Currently this bill is stalled in the Senate, but my office is following up on the progress and will keep you informed.

Other Recent Activities

As we reported in our last quarterly report, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is performing additional seismic rehabilitation studies for ten courthouses statewide, including five Los Angeles County courthouses, which are Alhambra, Pasadena, Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Pomona South, and Van Nuys West

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courthouses. My office continues to provide the AOC with court facilities design plans and related technical documents, and coordinate court site inspections with the Internal Services Department, Department of Public Works, Sheriff, Superior Court, and the AOC consultants. The purpose of these studies is to provide a more detailed structural analysis, to better determine the potential costs of upgrading courthouses to the State's standards that they ordinarily use for purchase of buildings.

On March 13, 2006, the AOC circulated for comments a draft new methodology for prioritizing trial court capital outlay projects. If adopted by the Judicial Council, this new proposed methodology will change the AOC's priority order of courthouse construction projects. The new methodology could reduce the preference for rural counties, but would take away local courts' ability to make intra-county substitutions in situations where the locals agree that one court truly is more important than the ratings would allow. My office is in the process of providing the AOC comments, which will convey the County's concerns related to some of the proposed priority criterion.

My office continues to work with the AOC on completing the first Los Angeles County court transfer, San Fernando Courthouse. The AOC had represented that they would provide us with their comments on our draft term sheet, which we submitted in October, by the end of this quarter. This term sheet, once it is agreed to by both the State and the County, will facilitate the preparation of the transfer agreement for the San Fernando Courthouse, as well as provide a model for all other transfers. We are continuing to provide additional documents in response to State inquiries, to work with the Superior Court on parking allocations, and to complete the County Facilities Payment form.

County staff continue to participate in the monthly conference calls with CSAC and to meet on a quarterly basis with the Southern California counties. We will report back with the next quarterly report in July 2006.

DEJ:JSE
MV:AT:rr

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 Auditor-Controller
 County Counsel
 Internal Services Department
 Department of Public Works